

REMARKS

After the foregoing amendment, claims 1-20, as amended, are pending in the application. Claims 1, 2, 11 and 12 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Claims 3 and 13 have been canceled. Accordingly, Applicant submits that no new matter has been added to the application by the Amendment.

Rejection - 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3 and 11-13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 7,180,626 (Gassho et al.) in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0133152 (Matsueda). The Examiner states that Gassho et al. discloses all the elements of claims 1 and 11 except for a notifying unit and that Matsueda discloses a notifying unit. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Gassho et al. is directed to a printing system arranged on a network including: (1) a plurality of client computers, (2) a plurality of printers, each of which has a job status monitor unit and a printer status monitor unit, and (3) a print load distribution apparatus which includes a job status monitor unit and a printer status monitor unit. When a print job is sent from a client computer to a printer selected by the client, the print job is temporarily stored in the selected printer. The print job status monitor in the print load distribution apparatus receives an indication of the printer congestion (queue size) from the selected printer and if the congestion is high, transfers the print job to another printer having a shorter queue. The management of the printers is transparent to the client computer and as the Examiner has stated, no notification is provided to the client computers about a change in shared printers.

Matsueda is directed to a printing system arranged on a network including: (1) a client apparatus, (2) a server and (3) a printer. In response to a print request from a client apparatus, a printer is instructed to form a memory box for managing the job information in a memory apparatus of the printer. When the job information is inputted and registered into the memory

box, the client apparatus is notified of printer management information of the job information inputted and registered into the memory box (see Abstract and paragraph [0016]).

Figs. 4 and 5 and paragraphs [0064] and describe what is meant by “notification of printer management information”. In particular the notification (steps ST48, ST58) provided to the client occurs at the time that the print job is successfully stored in the printer memory box and includes the name of the printer, the location of the printer, the memory box number, the password etc. In Fig. 6, step S74 the client is notified of an error message that printing could not be performed at the time that the print job is queued to the printer.

The present application is directed to notifying a client when a state of a printer changes from a shared printer state to being deleted from the network. An embodiment of the present invention uses a shared printer monitor unit in a print server to manage shared printers located in a printer folder of, for example, a Windows operating system. When the shared printer monitoring unit receives from Windows that a change in the state of a printer in the printer folder has occurred, the change is correlated with the shared printer information stored in a storing unit. If the change indicates that a shared printer has been deleted from the network, notification is sent to the client computers along with the name of the printer that has been deleted. If the shared printer is replaced by a new printer having a different name, notification of the name of the new printer is sent to the client computers.

Amended claim 1 recites:

(Currently amended) A print system comprising:
a printer monitoring unit which monitors whether there is a change in a
shared printer for executing a printing process from a client;
a storing unit which stores shared printer information about the shared
printer, the shared printer information showing whether the printer has been
previously set for sharing; and
a notifying unit which, in the case where the change of the printer
previously set for sharing has been detected and said monitoring unit determines

that the shared setting is invalid, notifies said client that the sharing of the printer has been canceled, the notice including a name of the canceled printer.

Neither Gassho et al. nor Matsueda teach or suggest either: (1) a monitoring unit which monitors whether there is a change in shared printers, and (2) a notifying unit which notifies a client when the sharing of a previously shared printer has been canceled, i.e. deleted from the network.

Gassho et al. merely transfers a print job to a another printer when the printer to which the print job has been queued is not available or overloaded and does not teach or suggest notifying the client when a printer has been deleted from the network. Matsueda notifies a client only when a print job has been successfully stored in a printer or when an error occurs that prevents the printing of a print job at the time the print job is queued to the printer and does not notify the client when a change of a printer previously set for sharing is deleted from the network. Consequently, the combination of Gassho et al. and Matsueda, does not make amended claim 1 obvious. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the §103 rejection of claim 1.

Amended claim 11 is patentable over Gassho et al. and Matsueda for the same reasons that amended claim 1 is patentable.

Further, it is respectfully submitted that since claims 1 and 11 have been shown to be allowable, claims 2 and 12 dependent on claims 1 and 11 respectively are allowable, at least by their dependency. Accordingly, for all the above reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103 rejection of claims 2 and 12.

The Examiner rejected claims 4 and 14 as under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Gassho et al. and Matsueda, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,162,449 (Drummond). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Drummond does not teach or suggest 1) a monitoring unit which monitors whether there is a change in shared printers, and (2) a notifying unit which notifies a client when the sharing of

a previously shared printer has been canceled. Accordingly, claims 4 and 14, dependent on claims 1 and 11 respectively, are allowable at least by their dependency.

The Examiner rejected claims 5 and 15 as under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Gassho et al. and Matsueda, and further in view of Matsueda. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Matsueda does not teach or suggest 1) a monitoring unit which monitors whether there is a change in shared printers, and (2) a notifying unit which notifies a client when the sharing of a previously shared printer has been canceled. Accordingly, claims 5 and 15, dependent on claims 1 and 11 respectively, are allowable at least by their dependency.

The Examiner rejected claims 6 and 16 as under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Gassho et al. and Matsueda, and further in view of Drummond. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Drummond does not teach or suggest 1) a monitoring unit which monitors whether there is a change in shared printers, and (2) a notifying unit which notifies a client when the sharing of a previously shared printer has been canceled. Accordingly, claims 6 and 16, dependent on claims 1 and 11 respectively, are allowable at least by their dependency.

The Examiner rejected claims 7-10 and 17-20 as under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Gassho et al. and Matsueda, and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0179404 (the Matsueda '404 publication). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Matsueda does not teach or suggest 1) a monitoring unit which monitors whether there is a change in shared printers, and (2) a notifying unit which notifies a client when the sharing of a previously shared printer has been canceled. Accordingly, claims 7-10 and 17-20, dependent on claims 1 and 11 respectively, are allowable at least by their dependency.

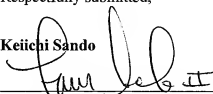
Conclusion

Insofar as the Examiner's objections and rejections have been fully addressed, the instant application, including claims 1-2, 4-12 and 14-20, is in condition for allowance and Notice of Allowability of claims 1-2, 4-12 and 14-20 is therefore earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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